

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A device for applying a surface treatment material to a surface that is wiped with a wiper blade having a predetermined rest position and a range of active positions where said blade is made to wipe said surface, comprising:
a cartridge containing a solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material selected from the class consisting of wetting and hydrophobic agents,
said cartridge containing an opening of predetermined size for allowing a solvent applied to said cartridge from a predetermined direction to reach said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material in said cartridge,
means for attaching said cartridge to said wiper blade so that when said wiper blade is in said rest position and said solvent is applied to said surface from said predetermined direction, said solvent will not directly fall upon said opening and thereby will not tend to dissolve said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material, but when said wiper blade is made to wipe said surface and said solvent is applied to said cartridge from said predetermined direction, said solvent will fall upon said opening, reach, and thereby dissolve said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material, so that dissolved solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material will reach said surface, whereby said surface treatment material will not be subject to ablation unless said wiper blade is in an active position.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein said surface is a vehicle's windshield, said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material is water-soluble, and said solvent is rainwater and said direction is generally above said cartridge.
3. The device of claim 1 wherein said cartridge comprises a material selected from the group consisting of metals and plastics.

4. The device of claim 1 wherein said surface treatment material is insoluble in water and said solvent is selected from the group consisting of inorganic, and organic solvents.
5. The device of claim 1 wherein said means for attaching said cartridge to said blade is a clip.
6. The device of claim 1 wherein said cartridge is formed within the structure of a wiper arm or bracket.
7. The device of claim 1 wherein said cartridge is formed within the structure of a wiper blade.
8. The device of claim 1 wherein said cartridge is attached to a channel which holds said wiper blade.
9. A method for applying a surface treatment material to a surface that is wiped with a wiper blade having a predetermined rest position and a range of active positions where said blade is made to wipe said surface, comprising:
providing a cartridge containing a solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material selected from the class consisting of wetting and hydrophobic agents,
providing an opening of predetermined size in said cartridge for allowing a solvent applied to said cartridge from a predetermined direction to reach said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material in said cartridge,
attaching said cartridge to said wiper blade so that when said wiper blade is in said rest position and said solvent is applied to said surface from said predetermined direction, said solvent will not directly fall upon said opening and thereby will not tend to dissolve said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material, but when said wiper blade is made to wipe said surface and said solvent is applied to said

cartridge from said predetermined direction, said solvent will fall upon said opening, reach, and thereby dissolve said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material, so that dissolved solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material will reach said surface, whereby said surface treatment material will not be subject to ablation unless said wiper blade is in an active position.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said surface is a vehicle's windshield, said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material is water-soluble, and said solvent is rainwater and said direction is generally above said cartridge.
11. The method of claim 9 wherein said cartridge comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of metals and plastics.
12. The method of claim 9 wherein said surface treatment material is not soluble in water and said solvent is selected from the group consisting of inorganic, and organic solvents.
13. The method of claim 9 wherein said means for attaching said cartridge to said blade is a clip.
14. The method of claim 9 wherein said cartridge is formed within the structure of a wiper blade.
15. The method of claim 9 wherein said cartridge is attached to a channel which holds said wiper blade.
16. A device for applying a surface treatment material to a surface that is wiped with a wiper blade having a predetermined rest position and a range of active positions where said blade is made to wipe said surface, comprising:

a cartridge containing a solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material selected from the class consisting of wetting and hydrophobic agents,
said cartridge containing an opening of predetermined size for allowing a solvent applied to said cartridge from a predetermined direction to reach said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material in said cartridge,
said cartridge being attached to said wiper blade so that when said wiper blade is in said rest position and said solvent is applied to said surface from said predetermined direction, said solvent will not directly fall upon said opening and thereby will not tend to dissolve said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material, but when said wiper blade is made to wipe said surface and said solvent is applied to said cartridge from said predetermined direction, said solvent will fall upon said opening, reach, and thereby dissolve said solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material, so that dissolved solvent-dissolvable surface-treatment material will reach said surface, whereby said surface treatment material will not be subject to ablation unless said wiper blade is in an active position.

17. The device of claim 16 wherein said surface is a vehicle's windshield, said solvent-dissolvable surface treatment material is water-soluble, and said solvent is rainwater and said direction is generally above said cartridge.
18. The device of claim 16 wherein said cartridge comprises a material selected from the group consisting of metals and plastics.
19. The device of claim 16 wherein said surface treatment material is insoluble in water and said solvent is selected from the group consisting of inorganic, and organic solvents.
20. The device of claim 16 wherein said cartridge is formed within the structure of a wiper blade.